

REMARKS

Claims 30-55 are currently pending.

Double Patenting

Claims 30, 33-39, 42-48, and 51-55 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 6-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,743,607. A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. A terminal disclaimer is enclosed herewith, thereby overcoming this rejection. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Objections

Claims 31-32, 40-41, and 49-50 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The base claims, claims 30, 33-39, 42-48, and 51-55, are now allowable in view of the terminal disclaimer. Therefore, claims 31-32, 40-41, and 49-50 are also allowable. Applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

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Serial No. : 09/574,460
Filed : May 18, 2000
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Attorney's Docket No.: 17023-004001 / 98010

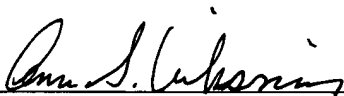
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney (612-337-2540) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2 September 2004



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